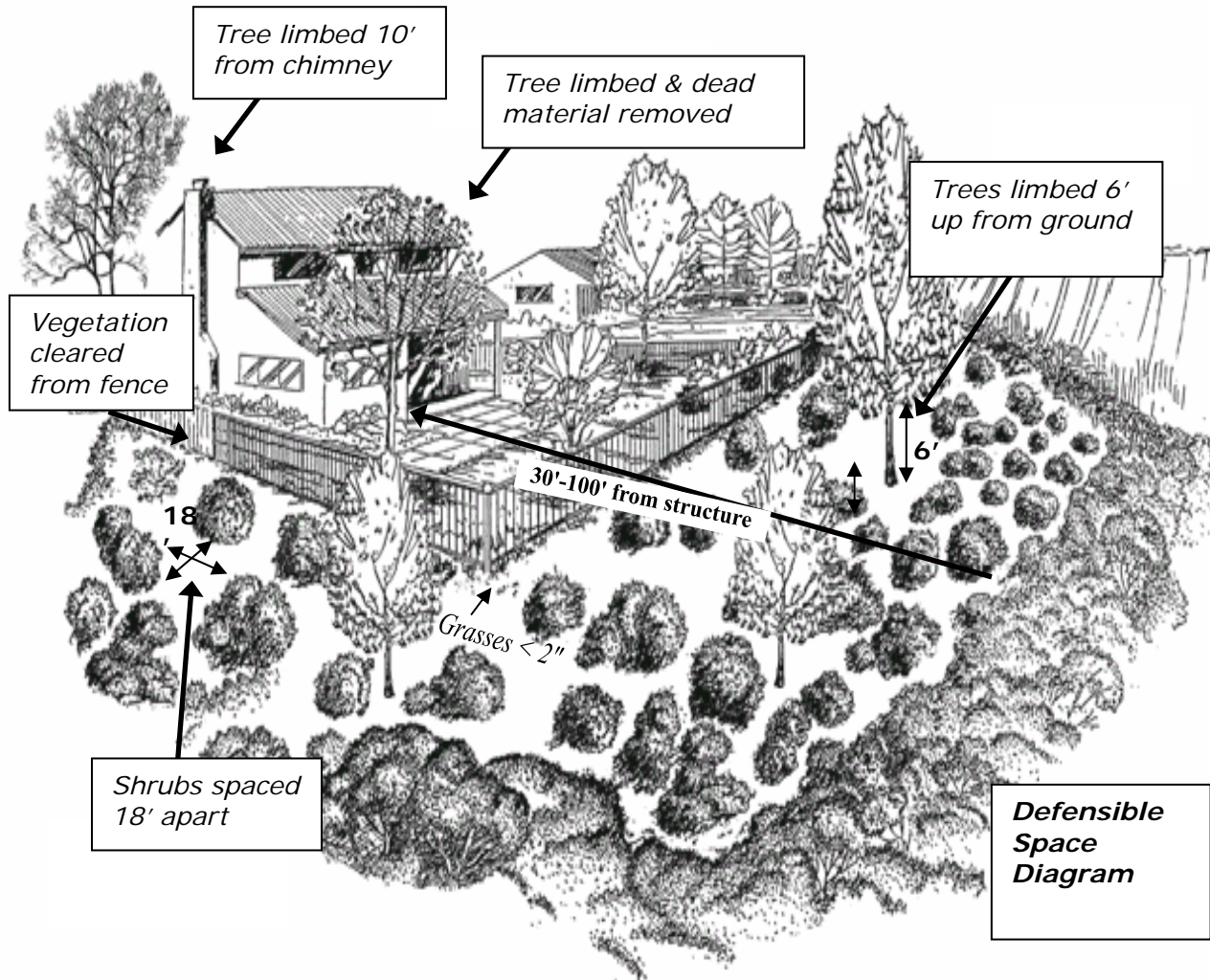


High Fire Hazard Area Defensible Space Requirements

Santa Barbara Municipal Code 8.04

Vegetation within Santa Barbara's "High Fire Hazard" areas, native or otherwise, must be maintained to create an effective fuel break by thinning dense vegetation, removing dry brush, flammable vegetation and combustible growth from areas within **30-100 feet** of all buildings or structures. All parcels in the high fire hazard area shall meet these Fire Department requirements per Santa Barbara Municipal Code 8.04.



To Create Defensible Space You Must Annually

- ☐ Cut and remove hazardous brush, shrubs, and flammable vegetation such as dry grass and weeds within **100 feet** of any structure and within **2 inches** of the ground.

Adhering to these requirements will decrease the destructive impact of wildfire.



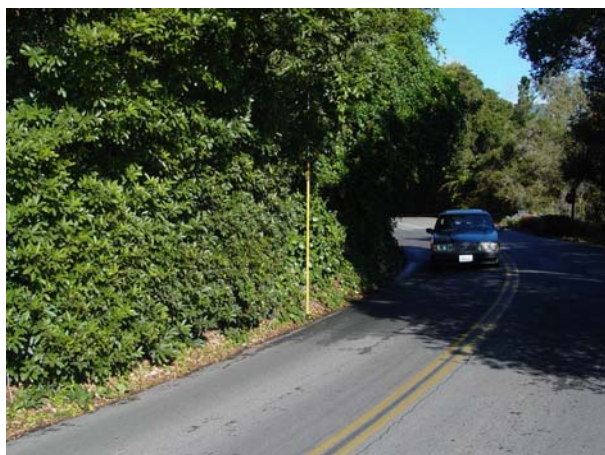
Unacceptable



Acceptable

- ☐ Clear brush from streets and driveways both horizontally and vertically along your property. Flammable vegetation must be cleared on each side of a street or driveway for a distance of **10 feet** and a vertical distance of **13 feet, 6 inches**. Vegetation must be cut to within **2 inches** of the ground. This applies to your public or private driveway and any public or private streets that border your property.

Maintaining ten foot horizontal and thirteen feet six inches of vertical vegetation clearance along public and private streets bordering your property and your driveways ensures safe evacuation during a wildfire. It also enables firefighters to respond safely to protect your property.



Before



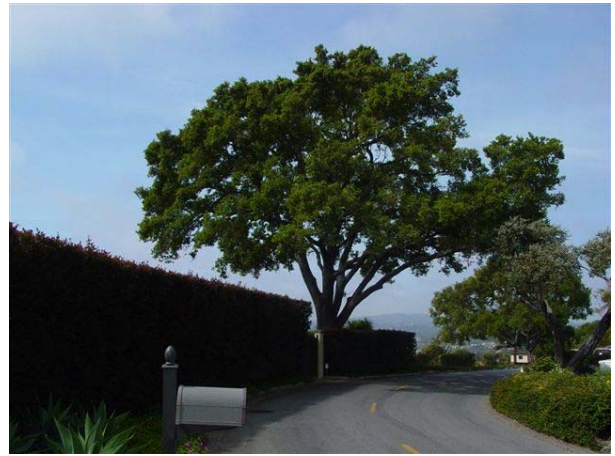
After

- ☐ Remove dead wood, trim the lower branches, and limb all live trees to **6 feet** above the ground (or as much as possible with younger, smaller trees), especially trees adjacent to buildings.

Keeping trees trimmed 6 feet above the ground helps to reduce fire ladders on your property.



Unacceptable



Acceptable

- ☐ Trim tree limbs back a minimum distance of **10 feet** from any chimney opening.

Having proper clearance around your chimney prevents vegetation from catching on fire.



Unacceptable



Acceptable

- ☐ Remove all dead trees from your property.

It is important to remove all unnecessary fuels that could help spread a wildfire.



Before



After

- ☐ Maintain the roof of all structures free of leaves, needles or other vegetative debris.

Many times people over look the debris on their roofs. The difference between a dirty roof and a clean roof could be the key to keeping your house from burning down.



Unacceptable



Acceptable

- ☐ Legally dispose of all cut vegetation, including any debris left from previous tree trimming and brush removal. Cut vegetation may be chipped and spread throughout the property as a ground cover, up to **12 inches** in depth, and at least **30 feet** from any structure.

Leaving your cuttings along the roadway is a serious hazard to you and your neighbors. A good solution is to have your cut vegetation chipped and reused.

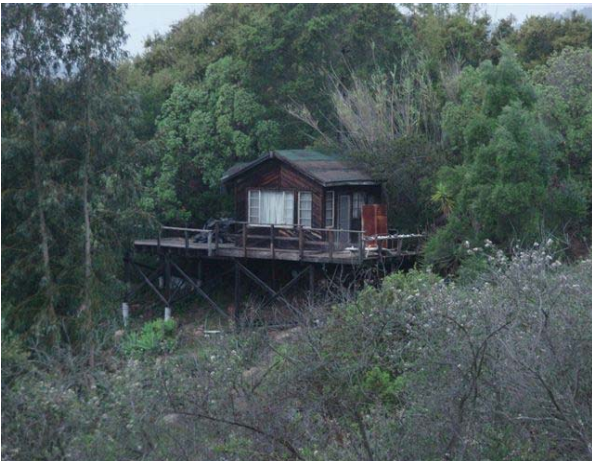


Unacceptable



Acceptable

Shrubs, hedges, and bushes may be retained throughout the 100 feet, provided:



Unacceptable



Acceptable

- ☐ They are spaced at least **18 feet** from other shrubs, bushes or structures.
- ☐ They are maintained free of dead wood and litter and trimmed at least **2 feet** up from the ground, or **1/3 of their height**, whichever is less.
- ☐ They do not form a means of rapidly transmitting fire to a structure.

Oak trees and other native specimen trees may be retained throughout the 100 feet, provided:



Unacceptable



Acceptable

☐ All dead wood is removed and lower branches are trimmed and limbed to **6 feet** above the ground.

☐ They do not form a means of rapidly transmitting fire to a structure.

Some exceptions.

☐ The Fire Department supports increasing the distance of defensible space beyond the 100 foot requirement on slopes greater than 20 percent. Before completing this work, contact the Fire Department (564-5702) for approval.

☐ When thinning vegetation and removing dry brush avoid creating erosion problems, causing siltation or pesticide contamination into creeks or drainages, and damaging the habitat of protected wildlife species. Contact the Fire Department (564-5702) for advice regarding erosion control.

☐ If you need to remove a tree greater than 4 inches in diameter you must contact the Parks and Recreation Department (564-5433) to obtain a permit.